

February 18, 1958

Dr. T. C. Sheng
Biology Department
Fu-Tan University
Shanghai, China

Dear Sheng:

Your letter of just a year ago reached Madison while I was out of the country. I kept it in mind all year long, but I was away in Australia for several months and I mislaid your letter for some long time. I just discovered it again today and I hasten to reply. Please accept my apologies for the long delay.

I am sending a parcel of reprints by separate mail. I hope you will let me know when they reach you. As to the cultures you requested, I think you could get them with the least delay from Professor H. Kikkawa at Osaka University in Japan. If he is unable to help you, let me know and I will send them airmail myself. There will be certain formalities in obtaining an export license but since these materials are entirely for basic research and education, there should be no difficulty.

We are of course anxious to hear how you are prospering personally and of the state of genetic work in China. I have had some interchange with geneticists in the USSR and it is obvious that microbial genetics is beginning to be developed along sound lines in other communist countries. Would you be able to return the courtesy by exchanging reprints? I am afraid I do not read Chinese, so English summaries would be necessary. However, I have two Japanese students in the lab now (Iino from Misima and Hirota from Osaka) and they might be able to help.

Can you send my best wishes to C. C. Tan? What news of him? Now that the political climate has softened somewhat I hope it will be possible to encourage normal friendly scientific contacts. Would you ask him whether he could not exchange publications and send some news of himself.

I will be going to the Stockholm International Congress of Microbiology this August and hope that you or some news of you may reach there.

If you had not heard of it, Tom is now at the following address: Dr. T. C. Nelson, Antibiotic Division, Development Laboratories, Eli Lilly & Company, Indianapolis 6, Indiana.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Medical Genetics

JL/ew